



The President's Daily Brief

8 March 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam [REDACTED]

25X1

(Page 1)

The Nationalist Chinese are looking for new contacts with Communist governments not allied to Communist China. (Page 2)

Pakistan has decided to recognize North Vietnam and Prince Sihanouk's Cambodian government-in-exile. (Page 3)

Fearing that the Israelis mean permanently to occupy southern Lebanon, Beirut wants more UN observers stationed in the area. (Page 4)

Archbishop Makarios' latest response to the Greek Government's demands will probably be rejected in Athens. (Page 5)

France is preparing to intervene in West Germany's debate over the ratification of the Moscow and Warsaw treaties. (Page 6)

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INDOCHINA

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NATIONALIST CHINA

The Nationalist foreign minister stated publicly yesterday that his government is interested in contacts with Communist nations "if they are not puppets of Communist China." He hinted that Taipei might even be willing eventually to establish diplomatic relations with such states. Last Sunday the government announced that it will consider allowing foreign companies on the island to export to the USSR and East Europe, at first through third parties. Taipei will also further relax restrictions on imports from these countries.

These reversals of long-standing policies are in line with Taipei's efforts since its ouster from the UN to prevent economic and political isolation. The announcements are also designed to suggest that Taipei has not been "boxed in" by the Sino-US communiqué and that the Nationalist government, like its rival in Peking, can conduct diplomacy on the basis that the "enemy of my enemy is my friend." The USSR and its East European allies in fact have little to gain from close contacts with the Nationalists, but they will no doubt welcome the opportunity to nettle Peking by responding positively, if cautiously, to Taipei's overtures.

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PAKISTAN

The Bhutto government has decided to recognize North Vietnam and Prince Sihanouk's government-in-exile and to establish consular offices in both Pyongyang and Seoul. A high Pakistani Foreign Ministry official told the US Embassy yesterday that the decisions were being made in order to fulfill earlier pledges made by President Bhutto's party. He added that the Pakistanis hope that ties with Hanoi will help balance the upgrading of Indian - North Vietnamese relations last January and enable the Pakistanis to serve as a communication link between Washington and Hanoi.

These moves, following a succession of dramatic measures on the domestic front in the past week, seem designed to demonstrate Bhutto's independence in preparation for his trip to Moscow later this month. Islamabad has no official relations with South Vietnam, and has had none with Cambodia since Sihanouk's ouster nearly two years ago. Both North and South Korea have consular representatives in Pakistan.

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LEBANON-ISRAEL-UN

Foreign Minister Abu Hamad has requested all permanent members of the UN Security Council to support a proposal to expand the UN observer group operating in the Middle East under the armistice agreement of 1948. He told Ambassador Buffum on Monday that the UK was enthusiastic about such an expansion, the Chinese and Soviets were noncommittal, and the French were somewhat reserved. The foreign minister said Lebanon was prepared to accept observers only on its side of the border if this would make their presence more palatable to Israel.

Abu Hamad reiterated the Lebanese complaint that the Israelis are insisting on a level of control over the fedayeen which is clearly beyond Beirut's capability. The latest Israeli demands included the removal of all fedayeen from the border and the stopping of "all fedayeen activity."

Senior Lebanese officials believe that Israel really wants to annex southern Lebanon and that the recent raids were in preparation for such action. Israeli officials, including Defense Minister Dayan, have on several occasions threatened permanent occupation of southern Lebanon if the fedayeen are not controlled, and the presence of Israeli observer groups on the Lebanese side of the border is doing nothing to calm fears in Beirut.

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CYPRUS-GREECE

On Monday, Cypriot Foreign Minister Kyprianou told UN special representative Osorio-Tafall that President Makarios is now ready to accept UN inspection of the controversial Czech arms, according to another UN official. Kyprianou added that if General Grivas leaves the island, the arms will be transferred to UN custody.

This offer may represent Makarios' indirect response to the Greek note demanding that the arms be turned over to the UN and that steps be taken to form a government of "national unity." The Greeks have claimed all along that they do not control Grivas, and Athens will probably reiterate this claim as justification for rejecting Makarios' offer. Moreover, Athens has insisted that Makarios reply directly to the Greek Government.

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NOTE

France - West Germany: The French Government, concerned lest the Bundestag fail to ratify West Germany's treaties with the USSR and Poland, will use its influence in behalf of the treaties [redacted]

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[redacted] The French are preparing to discuss the ratification problem with opposition leader Rainer Barzel when he visits Paris in about two weeks. French officials say they expect President Pompidou to warn of the setback in East-West relations that would ensue from a failure to ratify. Paris is well aware that its own effort to promote detente would be among the casualties.

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